

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 22, 2007

COUNCIL RECEIVES ARENA FEASIBILITY PLANNING PART II REPORT

Public invited to open houses to view, provide feedback

Medicine Hat – City Council today received as information the Arena Feasibility Planning Study Part II Report from Graham Edmunds Cartier Architecture (GEC) of Calgary.

The report includes GEC's results and recommendations regarding site selection, seating capacity, projected capital and operating costs, a functional analysis, concept design, and implementation strategies and schedule for a proposed new multipurpose event centre.

The GEC report recommends that the City of Medicine Hat proceed with the construction of a new event centre and a second sheet of recreation/community ice:

- Located on the Maple Avenue and Second Street site;
- An initial capacity of 6,136 spectators for hockey, expandable to 7,136 spectators;
- A capacity of between 7,000 and 8,000 people for concerts, depending on configuration;
- The existing arena is decommissioned;
- Total building area of 175,000 square feet;
- Completed as a municipal works project making use of a construction management delivery model;
- A total project value of \$96.7 million fully escalated;
- Net capital funding requirement of \$92.59 million.

"This is not the final recommendation because City Council and the New Arena Steering Committee are still seeking the public's input, as well as Administration's review before Council makes a final decision," says Alderman Graham Kelly, Chair of the New Arena Steering Committee.

The New Arena Steering Committee and GEC (the "Project Team") invite the public to attend two open houses:

Thursday, Feb. 1, 2007 Medicine Hat Arena (lobby) 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.	Tuesday, Feb. 6, 2007 Family Leisure Centre (sage room) 11:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., 5 p.m. – 9 p.m.
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Representatives from the Project Team and City staff will be available at the open houses to answer questions on the study which was presented to City Council on January 22, 2007. The study can be viewed or downloaded on the City's website at www.medicinehat.ca.

GEC will prepare a report on the feedback resulting from the open houses. City Administration will also provide a report based on an administrative review of the GEC report and recommendations.

Both reports will be submitted to the New Arena Steering Committee, for review and recommendations to City Council on March 5, 2007.

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MEDIA: For further information, please contact:

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